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## **Utah Occupational Safety and Health Releases 2017 Workplace Fatality Statistics**

*Salt Lake City* - The Utah Labor Commission, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), has released the 2017 fatal occupational injury data for Utah. Data was obtained through the annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) conducted by the Utah Occupational Safety and Health (UOSH) Division, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). A total count of 43 fatal workplace injuries were recorded during 2017. This is a decrease from the total count of 44 fatal workplace injuries during 2016.

### **Highlights:**

- Of the 43 work-related fatalities in Utah during 2017; 18 were transportation incidents, 7 were violence and other injuries by persons or animals, 10 were contact with objects or equipment, 3 were falls/slips/trips and 5 were exposure to harmful substances or environments.
- Transportation incidents remained the most frequent type of fatal work-related event and accounted for 18 of the 43 fatal occupational injuries in Utah during 2017. Approximately 83% of the transportation incidents (15) involved roadway motorized land vehicles.
- Of all workplace fatalities in 2017, men accounted for 95% (41 of 43 fatalities), which was an increase from 91% (40 of 44 fatalities) during 2016. Of the 41 men who were fatally injured during 2017, transportation incidents accounted for 17 of the fatalities.
- Fatal occupational injuries resulting from contact with other objects or equipment remained at 10 from 2016 to 2017. During 2016, seven of the ten fatalities were in goods producing, while during 2017, goods producing decreased to five fatalities.
- The incidence of fatal work-related falls, slips and trips decreased from four during 2016 to three during 2017, a total decrease of 25%.
- The largest number of worker fatalities during 2017 occurred to workers between the ages of 35 and 44 years of age. Fatalities in this age demographic accounted for 12 of 43 fatal work injuries, or 28%. During 2016, the largest number of worker fatalities occurred to workers between the ages of 45 and 54 years of age.
- Of all work-related fatalities, white, non-Hispanic workers accounted for 84% during 2017, which was an increase compared to 68% during 2016. Transportation incidents were the

largest contributing factor for white, non-Hispanic fatal work injuries which accounted for 42% of the fatalities.

- The percentage of work-related fatalities for Hispanic and Latino workers decreased from 23% during 2016 to 14% during 2017.
- Of the 43 workers fatally injured at work in Utah during 2017, 37 were private sector wage and salary workers, three were government workers and three were self-employed.

The CFOI part of the BLS Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS) program compiles a count of all fatal work injuries occurring in the United States during the calendar year. The CFOI program uses various state, federal, and independent data sources to identify and verify work-related fatalities. The CFOI program compiles the most complete, verifiable count of fatal occupational injuries in the United States.

For more information, visit the Federal BLS website at <https://www.bls.gov/iif/>, or the Utah Labor Commission BLS website at <https://laborcommission.utah.gov/divisions/UOSH/bls.html>. For specific questions contact MacKenzie Wight at (801) 530-6926, [mwright@utah.gov](mailto:mwright@utah.gov), or Joy Lawrence at (801) 530-6823, [joylawrence@utah.gov](mailto:joylawrence@utah.gov), at the Utah Labor Commission, UOSH, BLS.